

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 998

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the family of Dan P. Herron upon his Posthumous induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and the memory of those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, distinguished themselves as community leaders; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is the late Dan P. Herron, who devoted thirty-five years of his life to the education and instruction of young athletes and students; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2008, Mr. Herron will be inducted posthumously into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, Dan Herron was born in 1928 in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, and, as a member of this nation's greatest generation, interrupted his high school studies to join the United States Army and serve as a paratrooper in Japan during World War II; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding high school athlete, Mr. Herron played football at Hiwassee Junior College and then at Tennessee Technological University, where he completed his bachelor's degree in 1952; and

WHEREAS, commissioned in the U.S. Regular Army, Dan Herron spent the next three years again serving his country in such posts as Company Commander in the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Korea; and

WHEREAS, following his second period of military service, Mr. Herron enrolled in George Peabody College, where he earned a master's degree in history; and

WHEREAS, Dan Herron's accomplished career in education began in 1956, at which time he became principal of Gordonsville School; he also diligently served the school as a history teacher, head baseball coach, assistant football coach, and school bookkeeper; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, he became principal of Central High School in Fayetteville, where he continued to improve the school's excellent academic and athletic standards; under his leadership, the 1961 football team was named the No. 1 team in the State; and

WHEREAS, from 1963 to 1991, Mr. Herron utilized his significant leadership abilities as principal of Gallatin High School and molded the school into a uniformly exemplary institution. During his tenure, the school became widely recognized for its superior athletic teams, as the school won a total of five state championships in the sports of football, boys' basketball, and girls' basketball, and earned innumerable awards in track and field competition; and

WHEREAS, equally dedicated to the school's academic performance, Dan Herron led Gallatin High School to renown in many aspects, including mathematics, in which the school competed at the local, regional, and state levels; vocational education, which program earned the school many state awards; and musical productions, which relied on a collaboration of the Speech and Drama Department, the school band, the Choral Department, and the Vocational Education Department for its success; and

WHEREAS, his sagacious efforts and commitment to excellence garnered the Gallatin recognition as one of the top five high schools in the State; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, the magnanimous Mr. Herron sought to honor the achievements of his students through a partnership with the Gallatin Rotary Club by means of an annual banquet to recognize the top thirty graduating seniors; the banquet, which continues today, was later expanded to include the top thirty vocational education students; and

WHEREAS, an integral member of the educational community, Dan Herron served his colleagues in many capacities, including as President of the Lincoln County Education Association, President of the Sumner County Education Association, President of the Middle Tennessee Education Association, Chairman of the Middle Tennessee Principals' Study Council, and as Governor Lamar Alexander's representative to the National Foreign Policy Leadership Council/Secondary Education in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, throughout his prestigious career, Dan Herron's achievements earned him numerous awards, including a TSSAA Distinguished Service Award and recognition from the Sumner County Secondary Principals Association and the Gallatin High School Athletic Department; and

WHEREAS, in further service of his community and neighbors, Mr. Herron was a member of the Lions Club for more than forty years; and

WHEREAS, Dan Herron was an active and devout member of Gallatin First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as deacon; and

WHEREAS, throughout his admirable life, Mr. Herron enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Sue, and his children, Betty and Danny; and

WHEREAS, for his many accomplishments, both on and off the field, his impeccable moral standards, and his impressive work ethic, Dan Herron has been selected for posthumous induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Dan Herron, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplified the type of selfless community servant and civic leader who fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts in mentoring the State's youth and guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether in the athletic arena, academia, or daily life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the family and friends of Mr. Dan P. Herron in celebrating his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor the memory of Mr. Herron for his substantial legacy as a school administrator in Tennessee, and fondly remember his dedication to student athletes and to our State as a whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.